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97-91

March 17, 1997

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

CRIMINOLOGIST ROBERT K. RESSLER TO SPEAK AT EIU

CHARLESTON -- Robert K. Ressler, a leading criminologist and expert on violent crime, will visit Eastern Illinois University's campus Wednesday, March 26, to discuss his work and experiences as a 20-year veteran of the FBI.

The evening will begin with a 7:30 p.m. reception in the Martin Luther King Jr. University Union Alumni Lounge, followed by Ressler's speech at 8:30 p.m. in the University Union Grand Ballroom.

Ressler will examine the nation's shocking upsurge in violent crime and offer insight into the staggering array of causes. In a slide/lecture presentation, he will bring to life some of the past decades' most notorious crimes, providing personal insights.

Many writers of movie and book fictional themes have used Ressler's experiences. These include Mary Higgins Clark, Ann Rule, Patricia Daniels Cornwell and Tom Harris, author of Silence of the Lambs. Ressler has actually investigated and sat face-to-face with notorious murderers such as Jeffrey Dahmer, Ted Bundy, John Wayne Gacy, Charles Manson and David Berkowitz, the Son of Sam Killer.

As founder and past director of the FBI's Violent Criminal Apprehension Program, Ressler specialized in criminal personality profiling, crime scene analysis, homicide, sexual

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assaults, hostage negotiation and workplace violence.

He has innovated many of the programs that led to the formation of the Bureau's National Center for the Analysis of Violent Crime. This think tank, located at the FBI Academy at Quantico, Va., is the center that coordinates violent crime investigation nationally and internationally. Ressler has consulted to infamous murder cases in Great Britain and is a frequent consultant and lecturer to the detectives of Scotland Yard. He has consulted to violent crimes in South Africa, Europe, Russia and Japan. Unlike the traditional academic criminologist, Ressler has 35 years hands-on law enforcement experience. In addition to his FBI experience, he is a former colonel with the U.S. Army's elite criminal investigative force, the CID.

Aside from his practical experience as a criminologist, Ressler has university affiliations as an assistant professor at Michigan State University and Georgetown University. He is a visiting instructor at Dundee University's Department of Forensic Pathology in Scotland, and is a recipient of two Jefferson Awards from the University of Virginia, the Amicus Award by the American Academy of Psychiatry and the Law, and a Special Section Award by the Section on Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences of the American Academy of Forensic Sciences. Ressler has authored two textbooks, a true crime fact book and his autobiography.

Admission to the presentation, sponsored by the University Board Lectures Committee, is \$5 for the public and \$3 for EIU students with ID. For more information, call Jam Bagwanedee at 581-5117.